

## **GRSMMP Conference Call 9 February, 2007 - Notes**

1. Participants in the conference call included Juan Moya (TX), Randy Runnels (FL), Rafael Calderon (TNC), Bobbi Reed (GoMex Foundation), Patrick Williams (NMFS), Jeff Williams (USGS), Kris Benson (NOAA), Doug Jacobson (EPA), Bob Heinly (COE), Cherie Price (COE), Bob Bosenberg (COE), Jeff Waters (ERDC), Jeff Lillycrop (ERDC), Lynn Martin (IWR) and Larry Parson (COE). The conference call agenda was as follows:

Master Plan Outline  
GRSMMP Strawman  
March Workshop Agenda

2. The call began with the announcement that Carl Ferraro was on maternity leave. His wife gave birth to a little girl on Monday, Feb 5. Everyone was glad to hear the good news and wished him, his wife, and new daughter well.

3. The first topic of discussion was directed to the Needs/Purpose/Objectives statement and strawman. Changes were made to Section II - Regional Sediment Processes to reflect the processes that are more related to sediment transport and associated management. A new version of this was distributed and focused more on system processes. The following changes were made:

II. Regional Sediment Processes - Understanding regional sediment processes as a foundation for regional management strategies

- A. Riverine
- B. Estuarine
- C. Coastal
- D. Offshore
- E. Wetland/Marsh
- F. Fine-grained
- G. Management influences on regional processes

4. As discussed during the last conference call, some of the states are already involved in creating a plan dealing with sediment resources and associated data bases to support regional sediment management. It was agreed that the team should take advantage of these efforts as a starting point to provide some guidelines and direction for the GRSMMP. Cherie Price (Corps, New Orleans District) will be drafting the initial version of a strawman and have something to talk from by next conference call or the workshop.

5. The next topic of discussion was the agenda for the GRSMMP workshop scheduled for March 8 & 9 following the AL/MS RRCT workshop. Bobbi Reed will merge the AL, MS, and GRSMMP agendas into one for the March 6-9 period. It looks like there will be an opportunity for a presentation and demo of the Priority Habitat Information System (PHINS) either following Thursday's working session on the Governor's Action Plan or during the lunch break. Jeff Lillycrop recommended that the demo include an

introductory summary followed by a demonstration. The slot should allow time for the RRCT participant to discuss its potential use in their focus area, as it was designed to support the Habitat ID folks, but the architecture can support the RRCT as well.

6. Another agenda change included a facilitated session to identify state sediment issues, opportunities and management ideas. Rather than state representatives present this material during the workshop, a questionnaire will be distributed to the state participants prior to the workshop so they can share their ideas with the group and be prepared to jump into the facilitated discussions. The states inputs will be recorded and incorporated into the Master Plan as a start to Section III - Sediment Resource Management Problems and Opportunities.

7. A session was added to the agenda for Corps representatives to discuss Federal dredging activities. Such discussions should include where dredging is taking place, sediment type, and where the sediment is placed. Jeff Williams recommended that the presentations also include beneficial uses of the materials as well. Beneficial uses can take different forms, e.g. keep it in the system or stockpile it for future use outside its natural system. Some disposal sites are reaching capacity so efforts are being made to identify beneficial uses of the material to increase the capacity. It was brought up that there are mis-applications for some materials and we should take advantage of lessons learned. Materials from dredging projects can be a valuable resource for many types of restoration projects.

8. A copy of the State summaries from the December Sediment Science Assessment Workshop in St Petersburg, FL was sent out to the team prior to the conference call. The team is asked to review and be familiar with this information prior to the March workshop.

9. Bobbi Reed is working on getting final headcounts. All planning to attend the workshop should notify Bobbi Reed via e-mail if they plan to attend and for what days. The count is needed to arrange refreshments, meals, etc. Please send to [bobbi@gulfmex.org](mailto:bobbi@gulfmex.org).

10. Next GRSMMP conference call will be Wednesday, 28 February at 2:00 central. We will be discussing the strawman plan and the March workshop.